



Washington, DC – U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced that San Antonio, Texas is receiving \$12,897,000 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support clean energy activities in the city. Under DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, San Antonio will implement programs that lower energy use, reduce carbon pollution, and create green jobs locally.

"This funding will allow communities across the country to make major investments in energy solutions that will strengthen America's economy and create jobs at the local level," said Secretary Chu. "It will also promote some of the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies we have - energy efficiency and conservation - which can be deployed immediately. Local communities can now make strategic investments to help meet the nation's long term clean energy and climate goals."

"We are extremely pleased to get federal assistance toward making San Antonio a greener city and one that is better positioned to prosper in the economy of the 21st Century," said Mayor Julián Castro. "This grant enables City staff to accelerate our efforts to make the city's operations more energy efficient as well as to help City residents and businesses reduce their energy consumption. This will be a great boost to our city."

"I am proud to see San Antonio at the forefront of the drive towards clean energy," said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, TX-20. "These federal grants will put San Antonians to work improving the energy efficiency of homes, small business and buildings throughout the city. We'll not only be saving money, we'll be laying the groundwork for new business opportunities. When people fly into our solar-powered airport for meetings at our solar-powered convention center, they will know that San Antonio is a city whose future shines big and bright."

“Going green is definitely the way of the future and I applaud the City of San Antonio for strongly promoting energy-efficiency programs in residences and commercial and public buildings,” said Congressman Henry Cuellar, TX-28. “These initiatives are a win-win situation for all; not only will low-income residents and small business owners see reduced electricity bills, but jobs will also be created in the area. This is another example that the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that Congress passed earlier this year is continuing to help boost the economy in Bexar County.”

“Energy efficiency is fast becoming a key component in our local and state economies,” said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, TX-23. “By aggressively funding projects that improve energy efficiency and promote the development of renewable energy, we not only contribute to a smarter economy, we work to create jobs and become energy independent. Residents will see a direct benefit through lowered costs on their monthly bills and our entire community will experience a higher standard of living.”

San Antonio will use its EECBG funds to undertake a range of projects that will improve energy efficiency and advance renewable energy efforts in the city’s residential, commercial, and public, sectors, while saving or creating over 100 green jobs. To promote efficiency efforts in homes, the city will use EECBG funds to build upon existing programs and provide additional energy efficiency retrofits for low-income residents, specifically targeting neighborhoods in need of reinvestment. Through its “City Lights” program, San Antonio will also offer small businesses no-interest loans for lighting retrofits, which will lead to reduced electricity bills. There are no up-front costs for participating and through a partnership with the city’s municipally-owned energy utility businesses are eligible for direct rebates as well.

Recovery Act funding will also be used to support clean energy efforts in city-owned facilities, including the installation of 100-kilowatt solar arrays at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and the San Antonio International Airport. Both projects will provide power to the facilities, while helping promote the city’s green tourism and public education efforts.

The EECBG Program was funded for the first time by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and provides formula grants to states, cities, counties, territories and federally-recognized Indian tribes nationwide to implement energy efficiency projects locally. Projects eligible for support include the development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy, energy efficiency audits and retrofits, transportation programs, the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements, the development and implementation

of advanced building codes and inspections, and installation of renewable energy technologies on municipal buildings.

Transparency and accountability are important priorities for the EECBG program and all Recovery Act projects. All grantees have specific measures they must take before spending the full amount of awarded funding, such as ensuring oversight and transparency, submitting a conservation strategy to the Department of Energy, and complying with environmental regulations.

Throughout the program's implementation, DOE will provide strong oversight at the local, state, and tribal level, while emphasizing the need to quickly award funds to help create new jobs and stimulate local economies. Communities will be required to report regularly to DOE on the progress they have made toward successfully completing projects and reaching program goals.

For a full list of awards to date, visit www.eecbg.energy.gov.